

From: Philip Cuff
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:29pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

I've been told that eloquence in commenting on this issue is not as important as numbers, so I finally feel qualified to respond.

I do not believe the current proposed settlement benefits the American public.

Why? I am a user of an alternative, non-Microsoft operating system. I use a non-Microsoft browser to navigate the World Wide Web. More and more, I find myself unable to conduct even the simplest of transactions on the Web unless I have a Microsoft operating system and browser. Even the occasional government website does not cooperate with my system. Microsoft made it very clear years ago that they intended to "de-commoditize" the standard protocols that comprise communications on the Web, and they are currently proceeding in that direction entirely unchecked. Some sort of intervention by the U.S. Government to interrupt this proprietization of the Internet was my last hope, and I feel I have been let down by your proposed settlement. Microsoft is a repeat offender, and what you've proposed is less than an unsupervised probation. There is no equivalent crime that I can think of that I might commit as an individual where I could ever hope to get off this lightly.

Thank you for your time.
Philip K. Cuff